

Approved by Council August 11, 2021

MARCH 5, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Sociological Association
Via Zoom

Participants: Aldon Morris (President), Cecilia Menjivar (President-elect), Christine Williams (Past President), Rhacel Salazar Parreñas (Vice President), Nina Bandelj (Vice President-elect), Joya Misra (Past Vice President), Nancy López (Secretary-Treasurer), Ruha Benjamin, Jessica Calarco, Kelly H. Chong, Laura Hamilton, Maria Krysan, Wendy Leo Moore, Gilda Ochoa, Jennifer Reich, Daisy Reyes, Vincent Roscigno, Sara Shostak, Van Tran; **Staff:** Nancy Kidd (Executive Director), Les Briggs, Erynn Masi de Casanova, Karen Gray Edwards, Mark Fernando, Tamara Mose, Michelle Randall, Preeti Vasishtha, Margaret Weigers Vitullo.

President Morris called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Eastern on March 5, 2021.

1. Agenda

A motion was made by Menjivar to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Krysan. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

President Morris presented the consent agenda which included approval of the August 12, 2020 Council meeting minutes; October 19, 2020 Council meeting minutes; November 16, 2020 Council meeting minutes; December 14, 2020 Council meeting minutes; additional dates on the two-year Council meeting calendar; conflict of interest disclosures as unproblematic and not requiring any special action; new bylaws for placement on the ballot of the section-in-formation on the Sociology of Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations; approval of section bylaws amendment proposals for placement on the next election ballots for the respective section memberships; name change proposal for placement on the ballot of the History of Sociology section; section dues increase proposal for placement on the next election ballot for the Mathematical Sociology section; bylaws amendment proposal for placement on the next Retirement Network election ballot; new procedures for approving section bylaws amendments, dues changes, and name changes; new date for section membership annual count; fundraising request from SKAT section; policy for appointing a chair for the SAN Advisory Committee; updated diversity statement; closure of our Merrill Lynch account.

A motion was made by Williams to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Menjivar. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Investment review

Director of Finance Briggs directed the Council's attention to the most recent quarterly report from our investment manager and engaged the Council in a discussion of the performance of our portfolio.

4. 2020 budget report

While the 2020 calendar year has ended, the 2020 books have not yet closed since several of our 2020 payments will not be received until later in the first quarter of 2021 and we may not yet have received all of our 2020 invoices. Executive Director Kidd provided a summary of year-to-date revenue and expense through November 2020 as well as projections for the close of the year. This was a difficult year financially as a result of the pandemic, but with a series of strategies we were able to mitigate much of the damage. Discussion ensued.

5. GRE statement

Director of Research, Professional Development, and Academic Affairs Erynn Casanova introduced a statement on reconsidering the use of the GRE in graduate school admissions decisions. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Moore to approve release of the statement and to support efforts to solicit endorsements from other organizations. Seconded by Lopez. Motion carried unanimously.

6. State of the Art in Sociological Scholarship on Race: A Proposed Task Force

President Morris introduced a proposal from the Executive Committee to appoint a new task force on the state of the art in sociological scholarship on race. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Tran to approve appointing a new Task Force on the State of the Art in Sociological Scholarship on Race as described. Seconded by Shostak. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reimagining the Annual Meeting

Kidd introduced a conversation about ways in which we might reimagine our Annual Meeting and some of the immediate steps we can take to move toward action.

8. Post-bylaws revision policy amendments

During our recent major bylaws revision process, several items were moved out of governing documents and into policy documents where they more appropriately reside. Council was asked to consider revision to some of these policies. Most of the items were for clarity and alignment with current practice. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Williams to approve the policy revisions as presented. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Section probation recommendations

ASA policy requires periodic consideration of section status. Council and Sections Committee member Jennifer Reich presented the Sections Committee's recommendations regarding putting sections on probation for Council consideration. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Reich to endorse the Sections Committee's recommendation not to put any sections on probation. Seconded by Bandelj. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Communities implementation plan

At an earlier meeting Council approved the introduction of ASA communities, member-initiated, ASA-supported groups that will be free for any interested ASA member to join. ASA staff was then asked to develop a plan for the formation and support of communities. Deputy Director Vitullo introduced such a plan and discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Moore to approve the communities implementation plan. Seconded by Menjivar. Motion carried unanimously.

Council took a break at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

11. Executive session

Council moved into executive session at 1:34 p.m. to discuss editorships.

Council moved out of executive session at 1:44 p.m.

12. Style Guide entries for race/ethnicity and gender

Publications Committee recommended to Council changes to our *Style Guide* entries for race/ethnicity and gender. Discussion about this proposal ensued.

Council will ask Publications Committee to revisit their discussion about the race/ethnicity entry in light of feedback from Council.

A motion was made by Misra to approve the revised Style Guide entry for gender as presented. Seconded by Parreñas. Motion carried unanimously.

Council took a break at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

13. Diversity of ASA journal authors

Immediate Past President and Publications Committee member Christine Williams shared with Council some informal data about the racial/ethnic and gender diversity of authors in ASA journals and the recommendations for further inquiry Publications Committee made after discussing these data. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Moore to organize conversations among editors about the issue of author diversity as recommended by the Publications Committee. Seconded by Krysan. Motion carried with 17 for and 1 abstention. Council charged staff with drafting a detailed agenda for these conversations which the Executive Committee will approve.

14. Sharing data and research materials

Publications Committee asked Council to discuss some proposals related to journal authors sharing data and research materials. Extensive discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Williams to approve a proposed statement to share with all submitters to ASA journals regarding sharing data and research materials. Seconded by Menjívar. Motion failed with 5 for, 5 against, and 6 abstaining.

Council decided to ask Publications Committee to revisit this issue in light of Council feedback.

15. Executive Director performance review procedures

ASA does not currently have a standard approach for evaluation of the executive director's performance. A proposed set of procedures was discussed by Council.

A motion was made by Williams to approve the proposed procedures for executive director evaluation and making the executive committee the approval body for compensation. Seconded by Menjívar. Motion carried unanimously.

President Morris adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.